

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 03887 011220Z

51

ACTION EB-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 L-02 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 PA-02

PRS-01 USIA-15 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 /072 W

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R 312000Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6153

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGTOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

UNCLAS KINGSTON 3887

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECRP, EAIR, EEW, PFOR, JM, CU

SUBJECT: CERP 0002: CUBA AND JAMAICA SIGN AIR AGREEMENT

REF KINGSTON 697

1. A BILATERAL AIR SERVICES AGREEMENT CONCLUDING NEGOTIATIONS BEGUN SIX MONTHS AGO (REFTEL) WAS SIGNED OCTOBER 30 BY PRIME MINISTER MANLEY AND CUBAN AMBASSADOR RAMON PEZ-FERRO. THE AGREEMENT WILL ALLOW AIR JAMAICA TO FLY TO CUBA, AND BEYOND TO POINTS NORTH OF CUBA, AND WILL ALLOW CUBANA AIRLINES TO FLY TO JAMAICA, AND ON TO OTHER CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES AND AFRICA.

2. ACCORDING TO A DAILY NEWS ARTICLE CUBANA FLIGHTS TO JAMAICA WILL BEGIN SHORTLY WHILE AIR JAMAICA WILL NOT START FLYING TO CUBA UNTIL THE COMMERCIAL VIABILITY OF THE ROUTE HAS BEEN ASCERTAINED.

3. SPEAKING AT THE SIGNING CEREMONY PRIME MINISTER MANLEY REMARKED THAT THE AGREEMENT COMPLETES THE CARICOM APPROACH TO AIR LINKS WITH CUBA, AS BARBADOS, GUYANA, AND TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO HAD ALREADY SIGNED SIMILAR AGREEMENTS. MANLEY DESCRIBED THE AGREEMENT AS "ANOTHER AND IMPORTANT
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PAGE 02 KINGST 03887 011220Z

LINK OF THE WHOLE CHAIN OF THE PROCESS OF NORMALIZATION

IN THE CARIBBEAN REGION. WE FEEL VERY STRONGLY AND
UNCOMPROMISINGLY THAT THERE IS NO PLACE IN THE HEMISPHERE
FOR POLICIES THAT CAN INVOLVE SANCTIONS AGAINST
CUBA."

4. DR. ANGEL ARANGO, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL
POLICY DEPARTMENT OF THE AERONAUTICAL AUTHORITY ASSOCIATION,
AND CAPTAIN AGUSTINE VENERO, DIRECTOR OF THE
AERONAUTICAL AUTHORITY OF CUBAN AND GENERAL MANAGER
OF CUBANA WERE PRESENT AT THE CEREMONY. GERARD

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